(ii) Patrolling of the various cable routes intensified;

(iii) All paper core cables are being replaced by PIJF or optical fibre cables in a phased manner;

(iv) Induction of WLL in the network.

(c) Underground telephone cables are damaged mainly due to road digging by civic agencies for laying of sewer lines, water pipes. Electric cables etc. Recently, there has been a spurt in these digging activities as many other agencies were also engaged in road digging namely Private Telecom Operators, Metro Rail Transport System, PWD for construction of over bridges etc. Unexpected natural calamities like landslides, floods etc., during the rainy season also result into cable damage.

Introduction of Automatic Refund System in MTNL

2473. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recently introduced MTNL scheme of Automatic Refund System for subscribers where telephones remain out of order and non-functional for more than 7 days due to unrepaired faults etc.;

(b) whether there is any foolproof mechanism and system in MTNL to check and monitor that aforesaid scheme is implemented properly and regularly;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in most of West Delhi Telephone Exchanges (particularly in Rajouri Garden-II) this scheme is not implemented automatically; and

(e) if so, the measures taken to ensure that scheme is implemented in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Under the Automatic Refund System, information of telephone numbers faulty for 7 days and more is automatically transferred from computerised Fault Repair System (FRS) for granting rebates in rental.

(b) The system is based on on-line computer functioning and it is expected that this shall be foolproof.

(c) Proper checks are built in the system to ensure automatic transmission and the accuracy of the information from Fault Repair System (FRS) to Billing system. There is also a provision to imcorporate the rent rebate details through a menu.

(d) The system has been tested and provided in all the Areas/ Exchanges of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on date including those of West Delhi.

(e) Does not arise.